

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AID-10 SIL-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4264

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1199

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO' S COMMENTS ON INTERNAL  
URUGUAYAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. I HAD AN IN- DEPTH REVIEW OF THE INTERFLL URUGUAYAN SITUATION WITH FONMIN BLANCO ON APRIL 20. BLANCO IS VERY MUCH ENCOURAGED BY THE WAY THE SITUATION IS DEVELOPING HERE. HE TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT BORDABERRY REMAINS VERY MUCH IN CHARGE AND THAT MILITARY COMMANDERS GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO DEFER TO HIM. BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY ELEMENTS ARE MORE ACCUSTOMED TO THEIR NEW ROLES AND ARE WORKING WELL TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD. BLANCO BELIEVES THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ( COSENA) IS NOW BEGINNING TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY AND THAT THE ENTIRE URUGUAYAN ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS IS OPERATING MUCH MORE EFFICIENTLY WITH A CORRESPONDING DROP IN THE ALMOST INTOLERABLE LEVEL OF CORRUPTION.

2. BLANCO SAID THERE SHOULD NO LONGER BE ANY DOUBT AS TO THE FIRMLY PRO- WESTERN AND ANTI- COMMUNIST ORIENTATION OF THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY. HE FRANKLY TOLD ME THAT THE GROUP IN THE MILITARY MORE STRONGLY ANTI- COMMUNIST HAD GRADUALLY GAINED INFLUENCE TO THE POINT WHERE THEY INSISTED THERE BE A CLEAR DEFINITION OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT' S PHILOSOPHY. THE  
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STATEMENT ON THE MILITARY' S POSITION VIS- A- VIS THE CNT AND THE  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN CONSTITUTED THAT DEFINITION.  
BLANCO SAID THERE ARE VERY FRIENDLY FEELINGS FOR THE US AND THAT  
OUR RELATIONSHIP SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE VERY GOOD.

3. FONMIN EXPECTS THAT SOONER OR LATER THERE WILL BE A CON-  
FRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNIST- DOMINATED  
LABOR MOVEMENT. THIS IS THE MOST DIFFICULT SINGLE PROBLEM THE  
GOVERNMENT FACES AS THE COMMUNISTS WILL NOT GIVE UP THEIR MAIN  
POWER BASE WITHOUT A FIGHT.

4. BLANCO SAID HE HAD INFORMED CRIMMINS AND STEDMAN ALONG  
ABOVE LINES.

DECONTROL 12/31/79  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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